



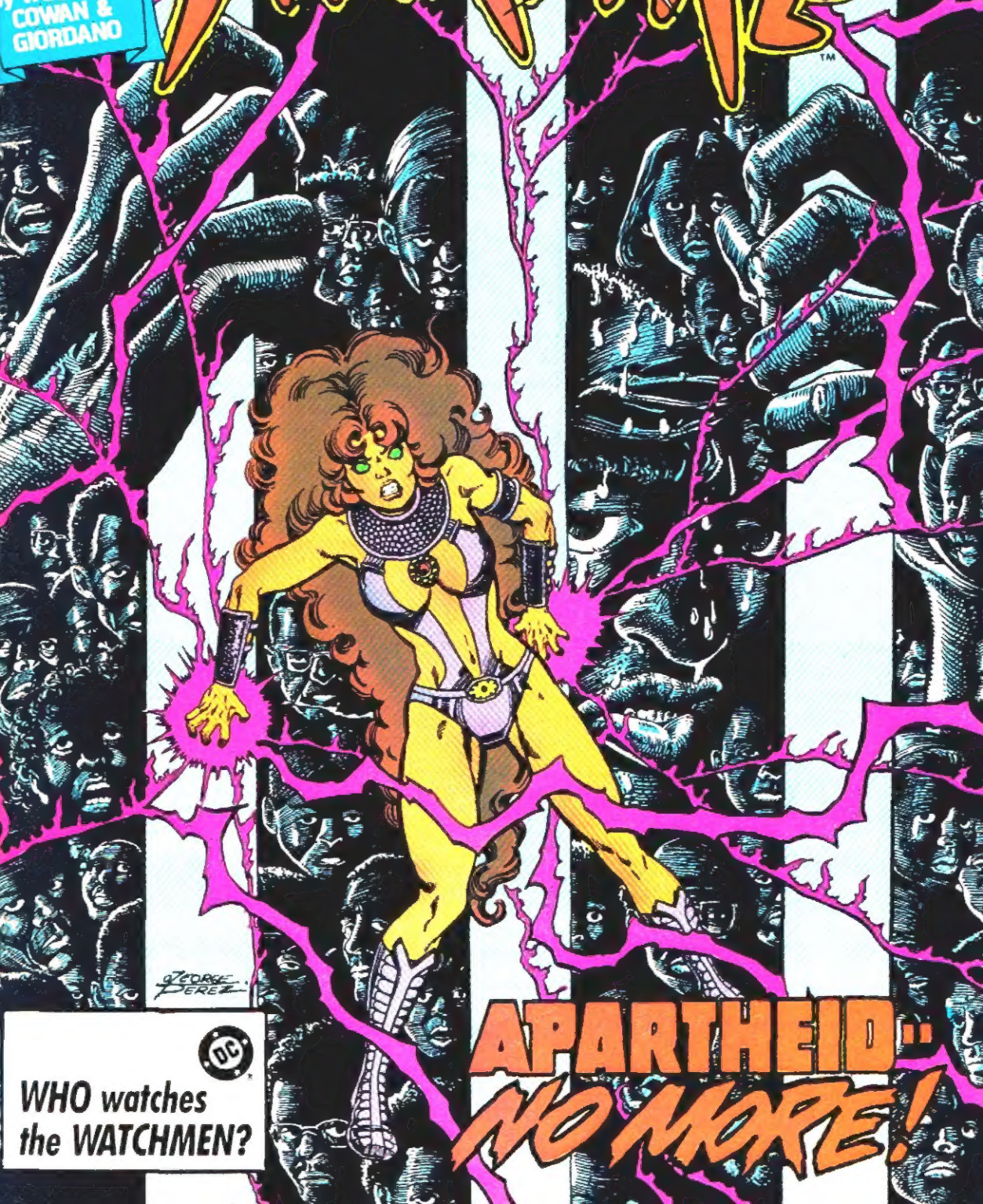
# TEEN TITANS SPOTLIGHT

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1<sup>ST</sup>  
ISSUE  
by WOLFMAN,  
COWAN &  
GIORDANO

# STARFIRE



GEORGE PEREZ



WHO watches  
the WATCHMEN?

# APARTHEID... NO MORE!



# Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1985

*Vote for your favorite in each category:*

1. Favorite Editor .....
2. Favorite Writer .....
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4. Favorite Cover Artist .....
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10. Favorite Publication about Comics .....
- Phil Seuling Award for Favorite Direct-Sale-Only Title .....

\*"Favorite Book" does not include graphic novels but can include your favorite reprint comics collection, favorite book about comics, etc. — with a copyright date of 1985.

**Only material cover-dated 1985 is eligible for consideration.** Votes for ineligible material will not be counted.

Anyone may copy and circulate this ballot, and any fan may vote only once and vote for no more than one nominee in each category. Ballot-box stuffing will result in the destruction of all ballots involved. You need not vote in all categories. **Comics Buyer's Guide** is not eligible for Category 10.

A free copy of **Comics Buyer's Guide** for Aug. 1, 1986 (which will carry the results of voting) will be sent to any U.S. voter who does not already have a current or expired subscription to **CBG**. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that a sample copy cannot be sent unless the vote is accompanied by \$1.50 in U.S. funds to cover costs of handling and shipping to another country.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by June 30, 1986 to:

**Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards**  
700 East State Street  
Iola, Wisconsin 54990

Name ..... Age ..... Male Female (circle one)

Street or Box .....

City, State, and ZIP .....

Please type or print your vote and information clearly.



# BLACK and WHITE

IT IS ALMOST DUSK AND THE WARM SKIES ARE ALIVE WITH GOLD AND SAPPHIRES AND RUBIES. HIGHER STILL THE DARKENING TURQUOISE BURNS WITH DIAMONDS.

BELOW, A SEA OF EMERALDS SWAYS IN THE BREEZE, AND PRINCESS KORIAND'R, LATE OF TAMARAN--EIGHTH PLANET--REJOICES IN EDEN.

KORIAND'R HAS RETURNED TO EARTH.

STARFIRE HAS COME HOME.

## STARFIRE

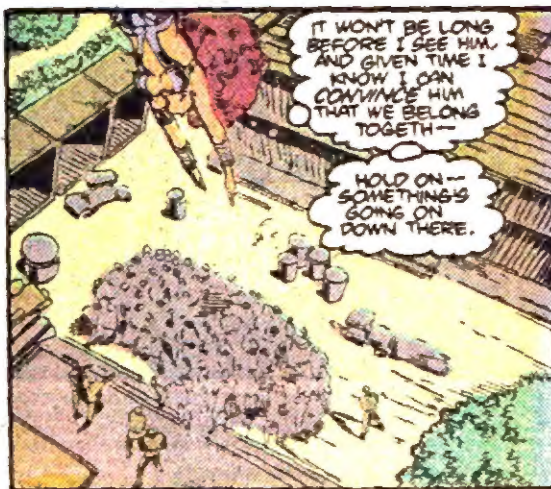
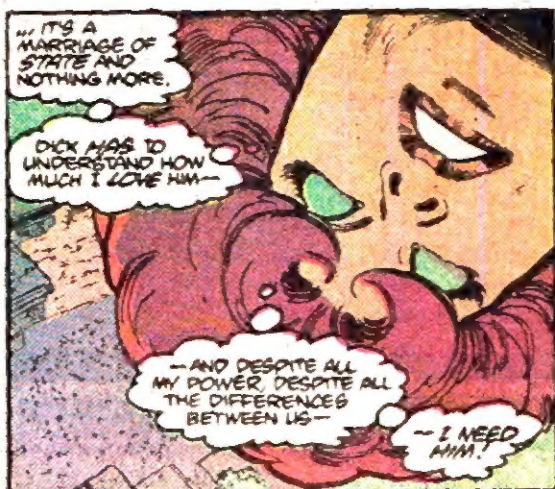
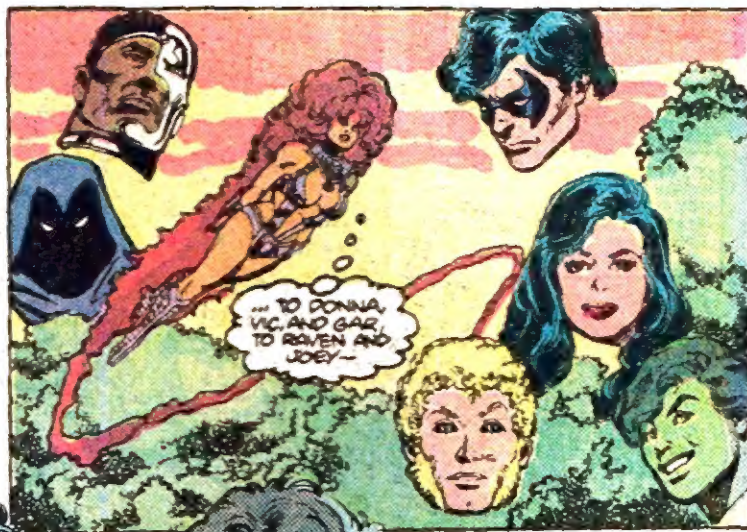
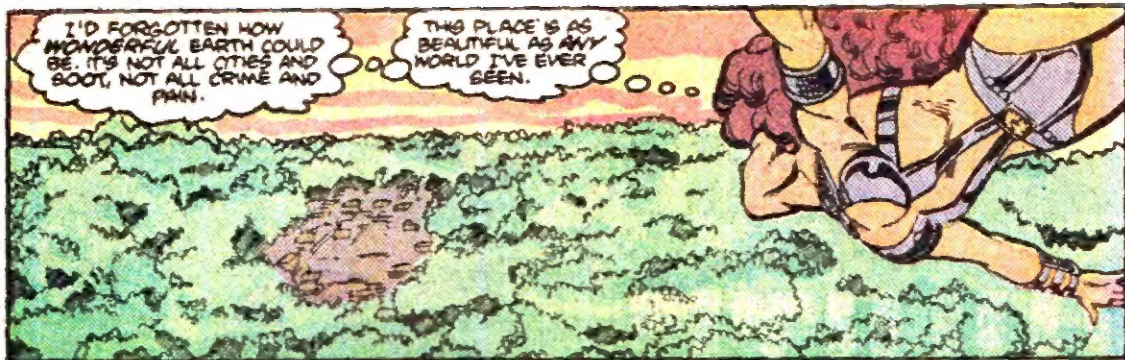
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AND  
GEORGE PEREZ

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STARFIRE FEELS THE HATRED...  
IT IS TANGIBLE AND THICK AND  
SWEEPS OVER HER LIKE MOLTEN  
LAVA.

**INFORMER! INFORMER! INFORMER!**

THE SCREAMS ARE MEANINGLESS,  
GUTTURAL YELPS. AND THEY ARE  
THE SCREAMS OF BOTH THE  
HUNTERS...

... AND THE  
HUNTED.

PLEASE... PLEASE  
DON'T. MY BABY... MY  
BABY!

THEN ONE OF THE HUNTERS  
EMPTYES TWO LITERS OF  
GASOLINE OVER HER...

... AND STRIKES  
A MATCH.

X'HAL! I--I  
DON'T BELIEVE  
IT... THEY WANT  
TO KILL HER!

POLICE!  
POLICE!

RUN!

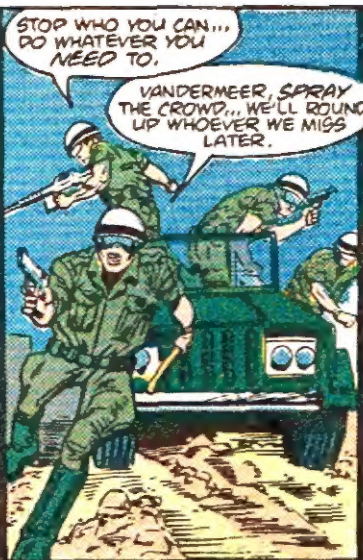




ARE YOU PEOPLE ANIMALS? GET AWAY FROM HER!

MY GOD, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THIS PLANET?

HAVE YOU ALL GONE CRAZY?



STOP WHO YOU CAN... DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO.

VANDERMEER, SPRAY THE CROWD... WE'LL ROUND UP WHOEVER WE MISS LATER.



BLACK PIG-- YOU ANIMALS EVEN KILL YOUR OWN KIND!

MY GOD, HOW COULD THE WORLD THINK YOU'RE CIVILIZED!

AN INDELIBLE DYE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "PURPLE RAIN" STAINS THE FACES AND ARMS OF THE FLEEING MOB...

LATER TONIGHT THE PERPETRATORS OF TONIGHT'S RIOTS WILL BE LOCATED...

...AND DEALT WITH.



DOESN'T ANYONE CARE ABOUT THE WOMAN? YOU'RE IGNORING HER!



SHE'S BURNING TO DEATH!



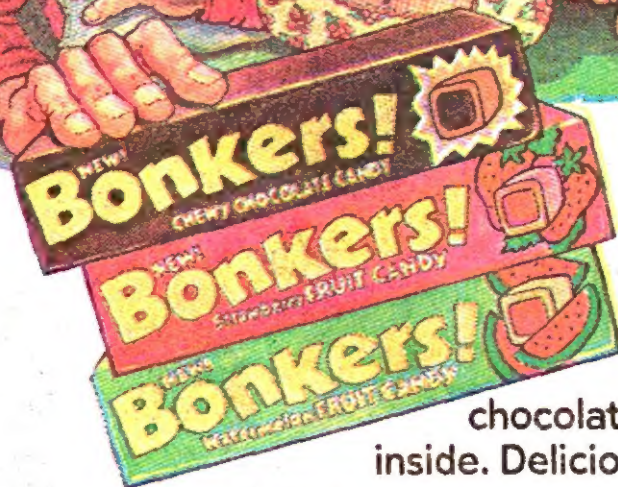
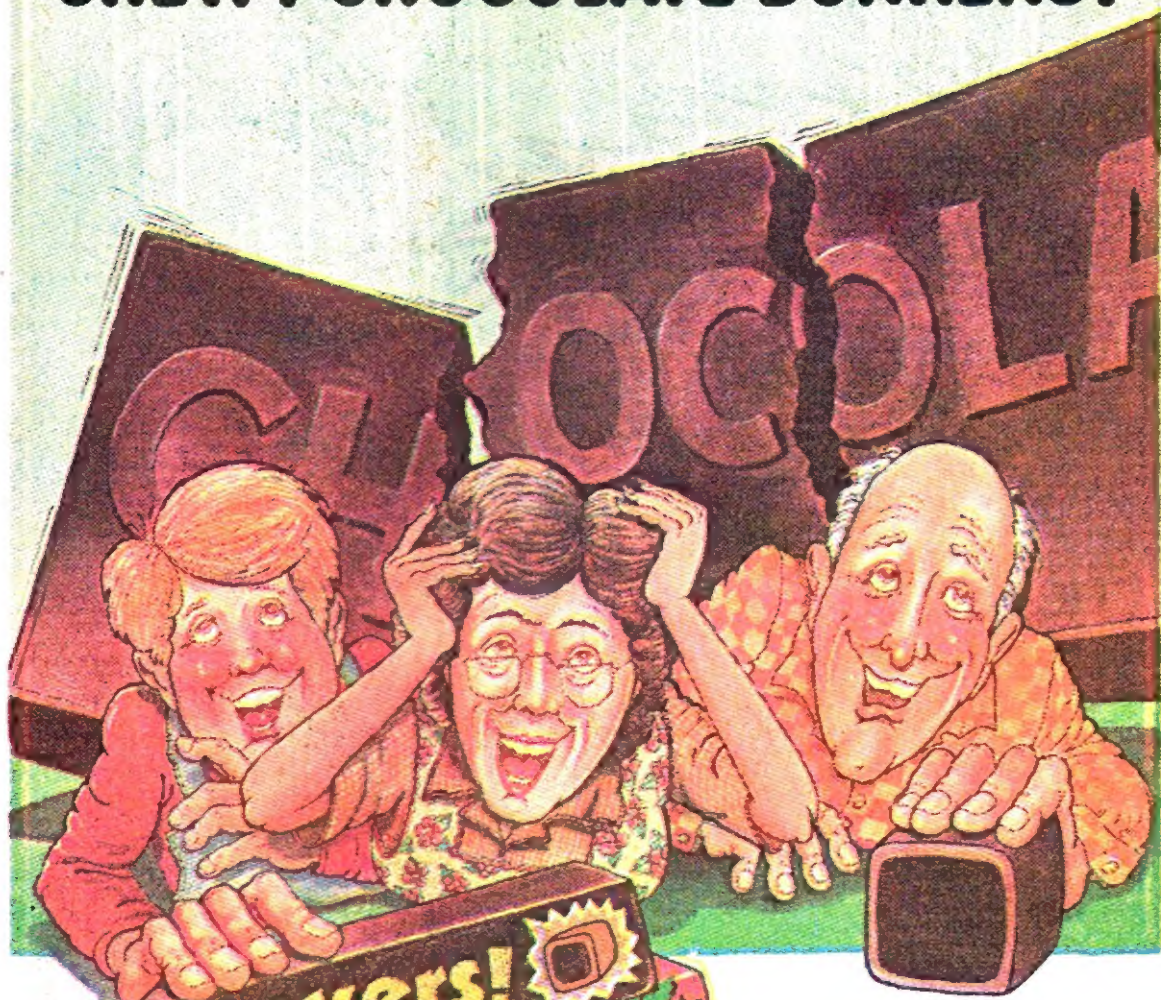
THIS CAN'T BE EARTH!

THIS IS A PLANET OF MADMEN!

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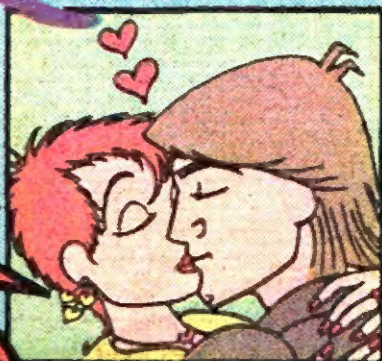
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...warm



...whimsical



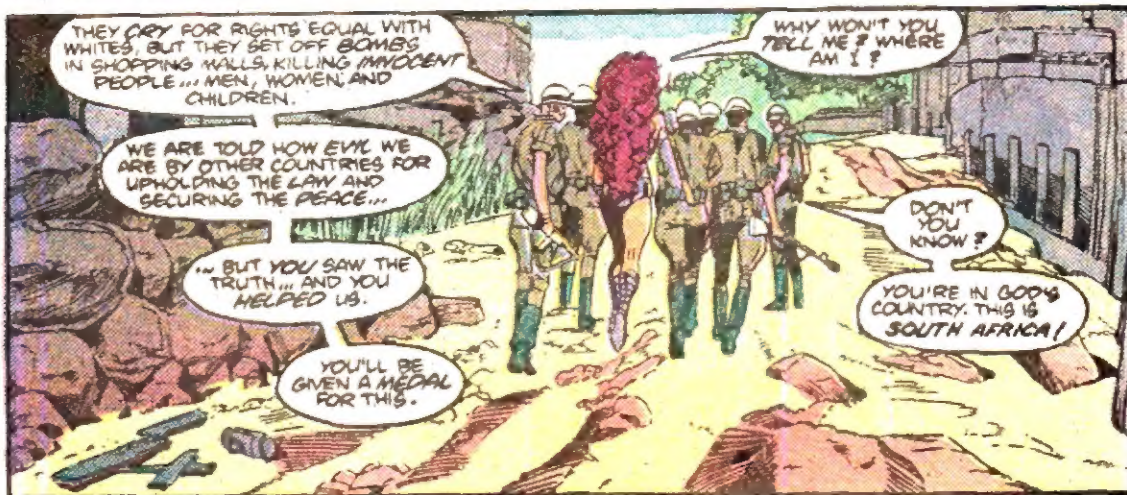
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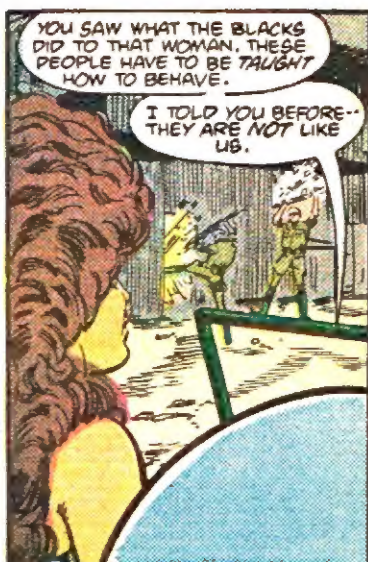
LEDERMAN, TAKE YOUR MEN TO THE NORTH SECTION, VEEERHAN, SEARCH THE WEST, KERK AND YOUNG, SOUTH AND EAST.

I WANT THOSE ANIMALS FOUND TONIGHT.



YOU LOOK SURPRISED, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

YOUR MEN...



YOU SAW WHAT THE BLACKS DID TO THAT WOMAN, THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO BE TAUGHT HOW TO BEHAVE.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE-- THEY ARE NOT LIKE US.



THAT'S NOT TRUE... PEOPLE ARE THE SAME.

THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOUR MEN TO ATTACK THEM NO MATTER WHAT THEY DID.

I RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE, WHAT IS TRUE FOR AMERICA IS NOT TRUE HERE.

RULE MUST BE MAINTAINED, OR-- HOLD ON--



WHAT IS WRONG HERE?

THIS BLACK DOES NOT HAVE HIS PASSBOOK!

WE FOUND HIM CARRYING A KNIFE AND HE REFUSES TO TELL US WHY.



I... I...



... HAVE DONE ... NOTHING ... WRONG ...



... MY PASSBOOK ... GONE ... STOLEN ...



ARREST AND INTERROGATE HIM.

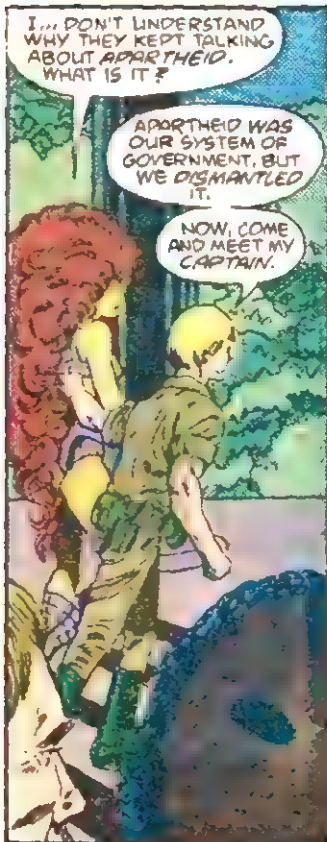
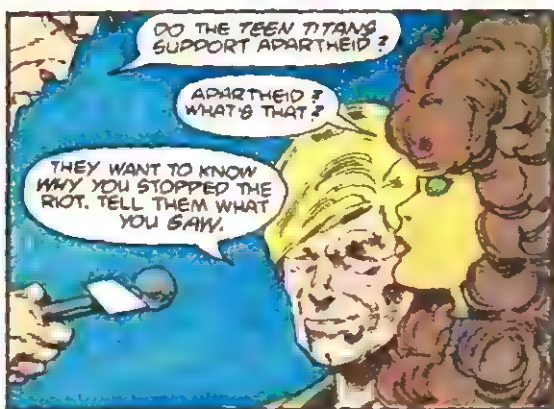
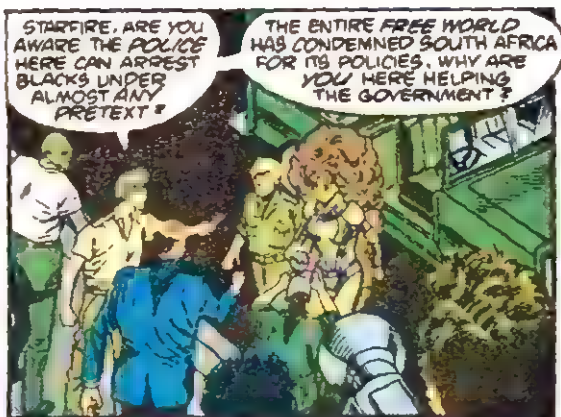
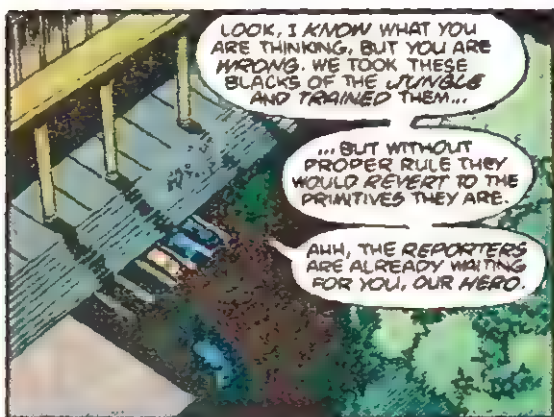
WHY? WHAT DID HE DO?



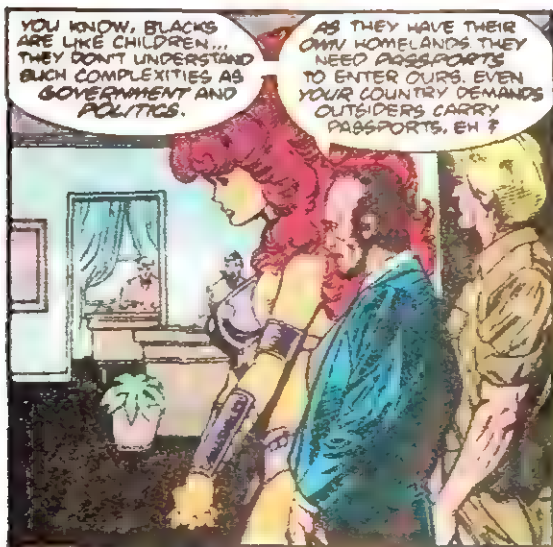
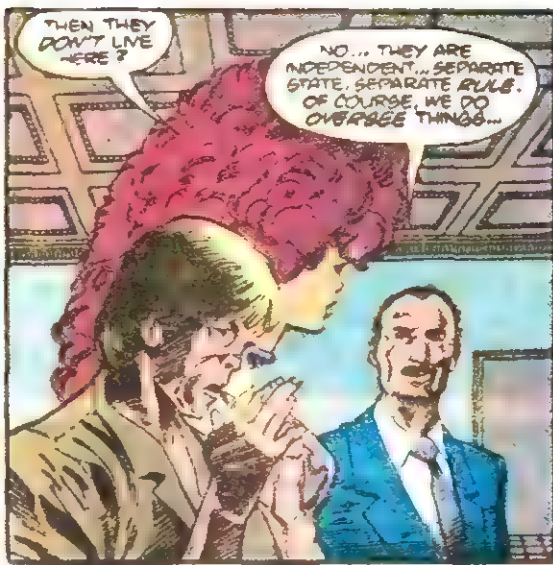
HE CARRIES NO PASSBOOK, AND THEY KNOW THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED OUT OF THEIR HOMELANDS WITHOUT ONE.

THEIR FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THE LAW MUST BE STOPPED.













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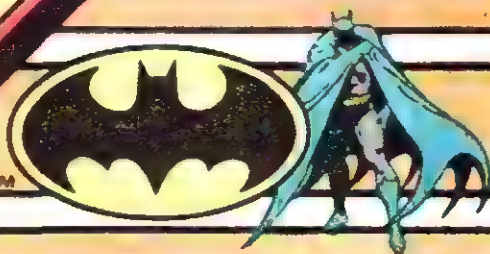
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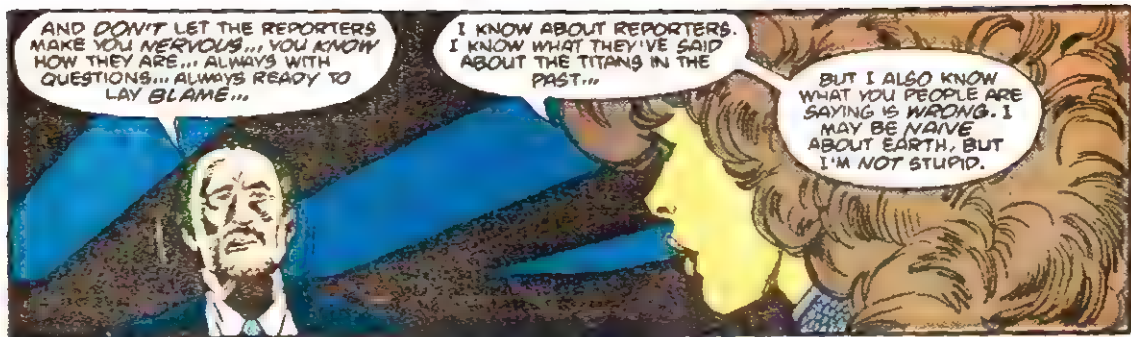
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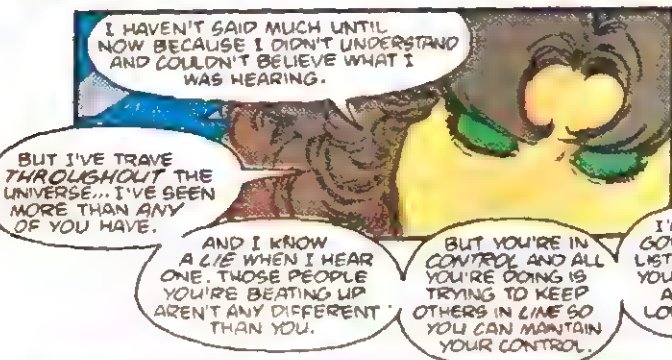




AND DON'T LET THE REPORTERS MAKE YOU NERVOUS... YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE... ALWAYS WITH QUESTIONS... ALWAYS READY TO LAY BLAME...

I KNOW ABOUT REPORTERS. I KNOW WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT THE TITANS IN THE PAST...

BUT I ALSO KNOW WHAT YOU PEOPLE ARE SAYING IS WRONG. I MAY BE NAIVE ABOUT EARTH, BUT I'M NOT STUPID.



I HAVEN'T SAID MUCH UNTIL NOW BECAUSE I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AND COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I WAS HEARING.

BUT I'VE TRAVE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE... I'VE SEEN MORE THAN ANY OF YOU HAVE.

AND I KNOW A LIE WHEN I HEAR ONE. THOSE PEOPLE YOU'RE BEATING UP AREN'T ANY DIFFERENT THAN YOU.

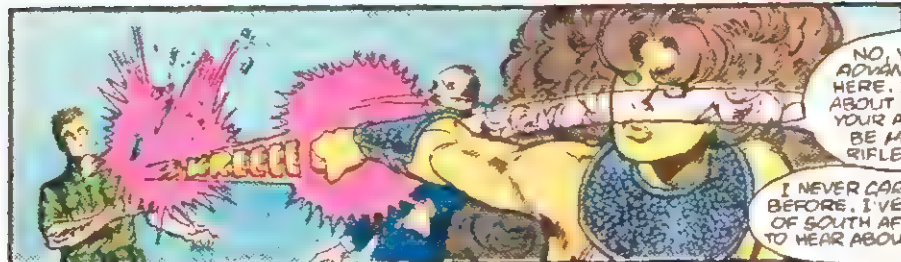
BUT YOU'RE IN CONTROL AND ALL YOU'RE DOING IS TRYING TO KEEP OTHERS IN LINE SO YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR CONTROL.

I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO YOUR LIES ANY LONGER.



WAIT!

PLEASE, YOU HELPED US... WE WANT TO REWARD YOU.



NO, YOU WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY BEING HERE. YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME... OTHERWISE YOUR ASSISTANT WOULDN'T BE HOLDING THAT RIFLE, WOULD HE?

I NEVER CARED ABOUT POLITICS BEFORE. I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND I DON'T CARE TO HEAR ABOUT IT NOW. I'M LEAVING.



NO. YOU'RE STAYING HERE.

THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE, YOU TYRANTS ALL ACT THE SAME.

YOU TRY TO INTIMIDATE THOSE WHO DON'T BELIEVE BY USING FORCE.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T WORK WITH ME.

**SKREEEE**



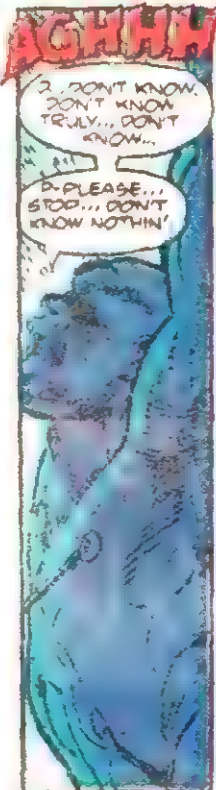
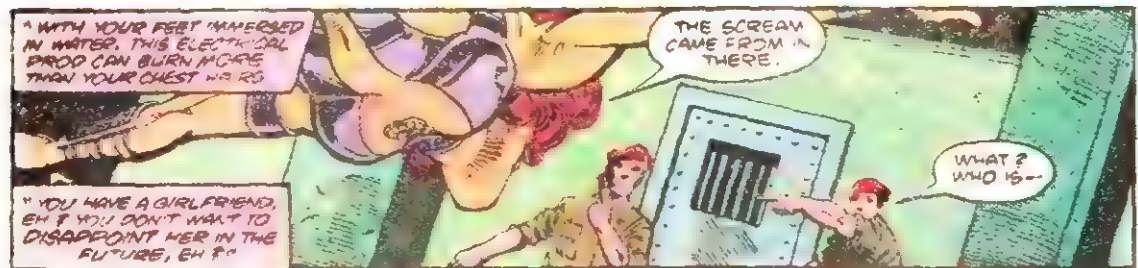
DON'T WORRY, YOUR MEN WILL RECOVER... SOON ENOUGH.

MAYBE THOSE REPORTERS ARE STILL NEARBY. MAYBE THEY'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY NOW.

NO...

YOU CANNOT LEAVE. I WON'T LET YOU.

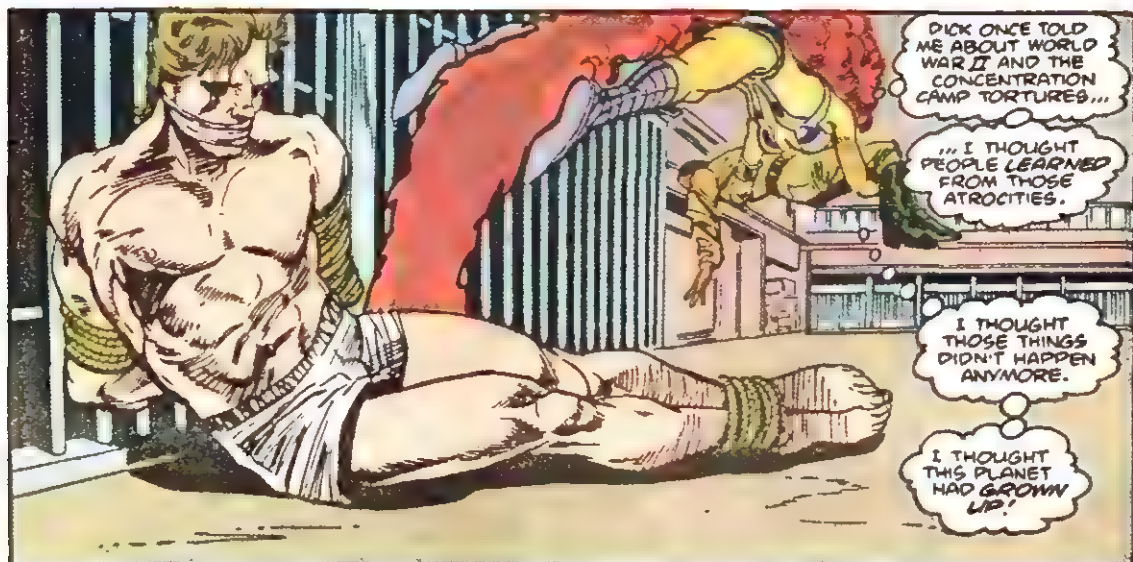




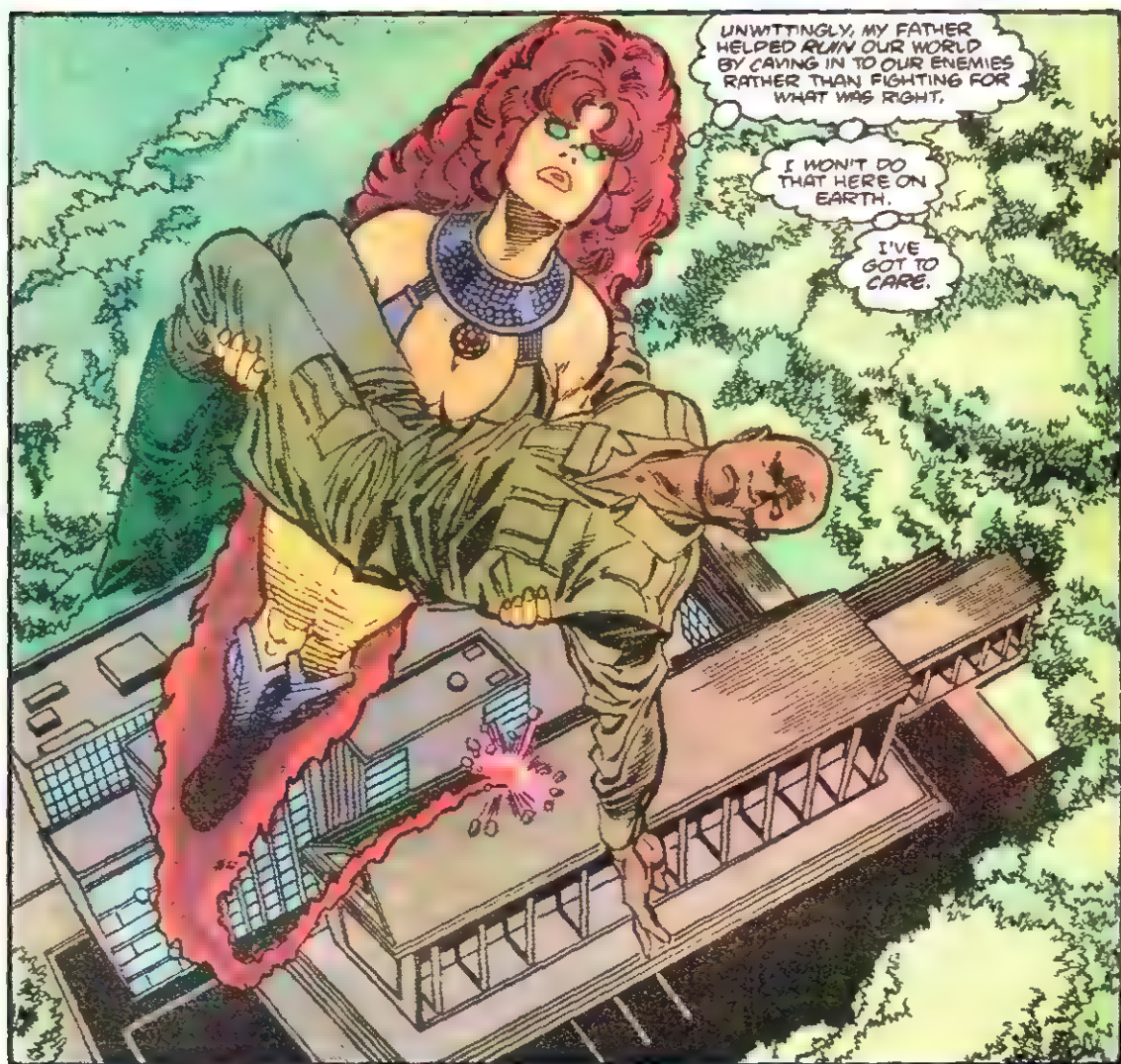
















THIS IS IT?  
YOUR HOME?

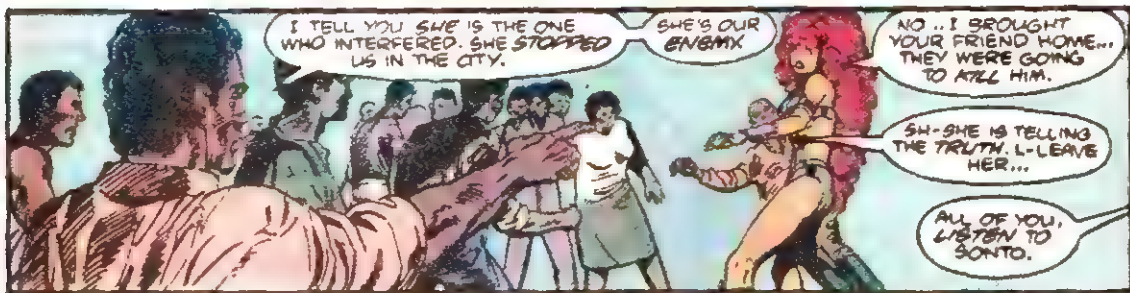
BUT, IT'S  
NOTHING MORE  
THAN ALUMINUM  
HUTS... DIRT ROADS...  
HOW CAN YOU LIVE  
HERE?



I'VE SEEN PLACES LIKE  
THIS ON BACKWATER WORLDS  
...NEVER ON ANY CIVILIZED  
PLANET.

WE LIVE HERE  
BECAUSE WE  
MUST...

WE... W-WERE  
T-TAKEN FROM  
OUR HOMES AND  
P-PUT HERE.



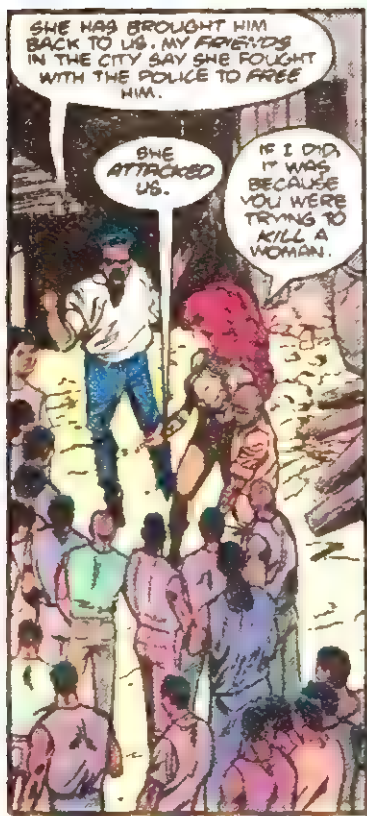
I TELL YOU SHE IS THE ONE  
WHO INTERFERED. SHE STOPPED  
US IN THE CITY.

SHE'S OUR  
ENEMY.

NO... I BROUGHT  
YOUR FRIEND HOME...  
THEY WERE GOING  
TO KILL HIM.

SH-SHE IS TELLING  
THE TRUTH. L-LEAVE  
HER...

ALL OF YOU,  
LISTEN TO  
SANTO.



SHE HAS BROUGHT HIM  
BACK TO US. MY FRIENDS  
IN THE CITY SAY SHE FOUGHT  
WITH THE POLICE TO FREE  
HIM.

SHE  
ATTACKED  
US.

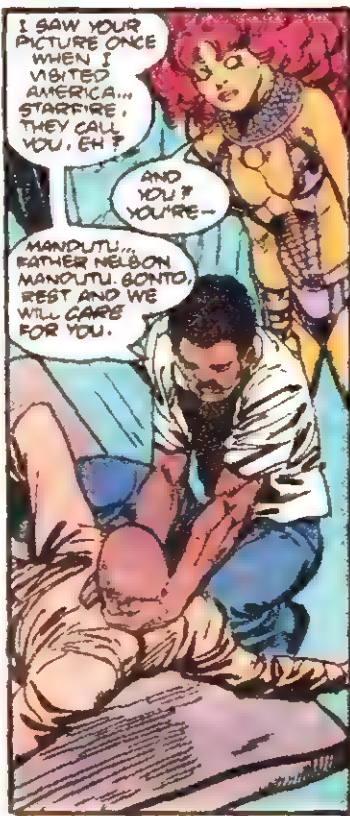
IF I DID,  
IT WAS  
BECAUSE  
YOU WERE  
TRYING TO  
KILL A  
WOMAN.



THEY BELIEVED HER TO BE  
AN INFORMER... TELLING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR  
PLANS FOR FREEDOM.

OUR BAD PLANS  
HAS RESULTED IN VIOLENCE,  
AND I HAVE FOUGHT  
AGAINST VIOLENCE FOR  
MANY YEARS.

BUT MY FRIENDS  
HERE, EH--THEY DON'T  
ALWAYS LISTEN TO  
WHAT IS BEST.

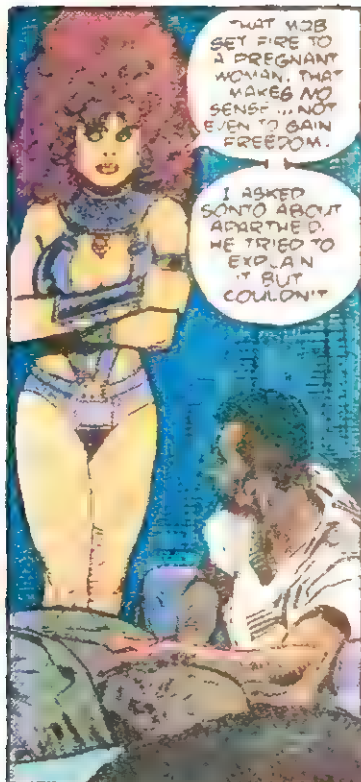


I SAW YOUR PICTURE ONCE  
WHEN I  
VISITED  
AMERICA...  
START FIRE,  
THEY CALL  
YOU, EH?

AND  
YOU?  
YOU'RE--

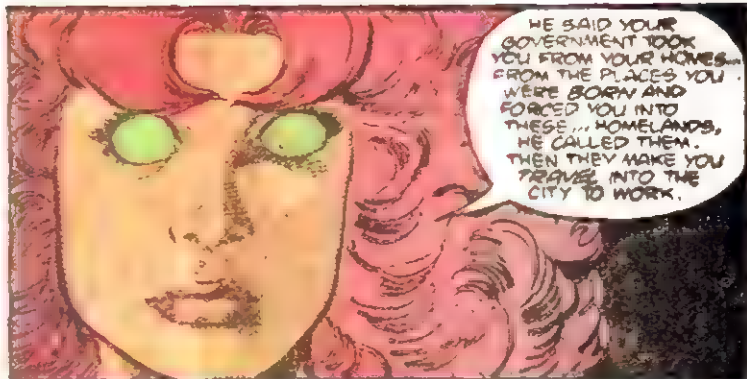
MANDUTU...  
FATHER NELSON  
MANDUTU. GONTO,  
REST AND WE  
WILL CARE  
FOR YOU.



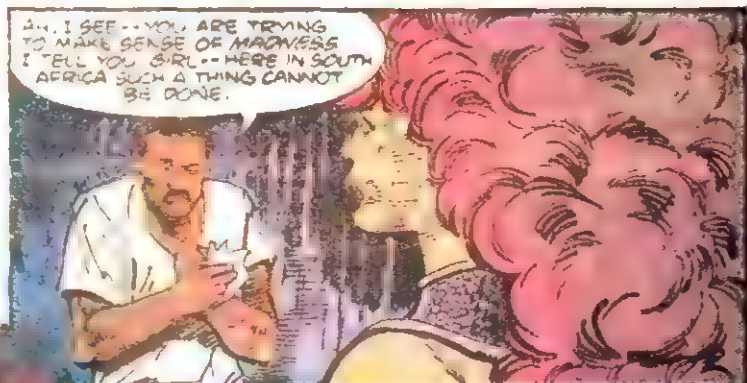


THAT MOB  
SET FIRE TO  
A PREGNANT  
WOMAN. THAT  
MAKES NO  
SENSE...NOT  
EVEN TO GAIN  
FREEDOM.

I ASKED  
SANTO ABOUT  
APARTHEID.  
HE TRIED TO  
EXPLAIN  
IT BUT  
COULDN'T



HE SAID YOUR  
GOVERNMENT TOOK  
YOU FROM YOUR HOMES...  
FROM THE PLACES YOU  
WERE BORN AND  
FORCED YOU INTO  
THESE... HOMELANDS.  
HE CALLED THEM.  
THEN THEY MAKE YOU  
TRAVEL INTO THE  
CITY TO WORK.



...I SEE--YOU ARE TRYING  
TO MAKE SENSE OF MADNESS  
I TELL YOU GIRL--HERE IN SOUTH  
AFRICA SUCH A THING CANNOT  
BE DONE.



...D SANTO TELL YOU  
FOR EVERY FIVE WHITES  
THERE ARE TWENTY-FOUR  
BLACKS? AND THREE  
COLORED.

YES, VIOLENCE,  
WHITE OR BLACK, IS  
WRONG, YET SOMETIMES  
WE FIND MADNESS CANNOT  
RELIEVE US OF THE  
MADNESS WE HAVE  
LIVED THROUGH FOR  
300 YEARS.

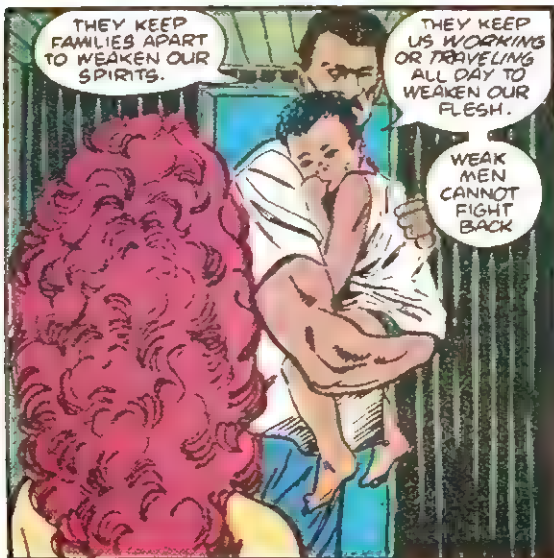
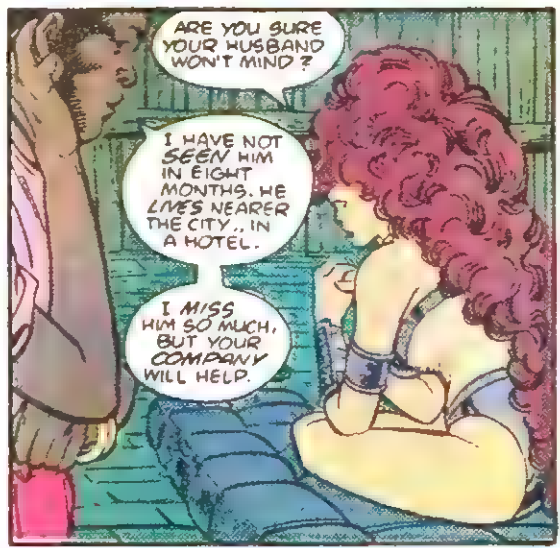
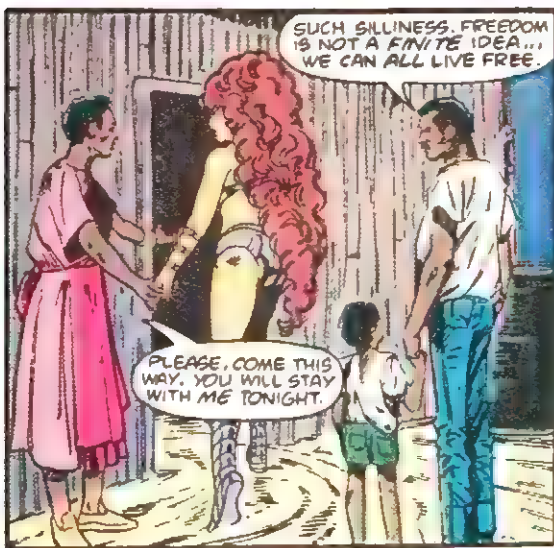
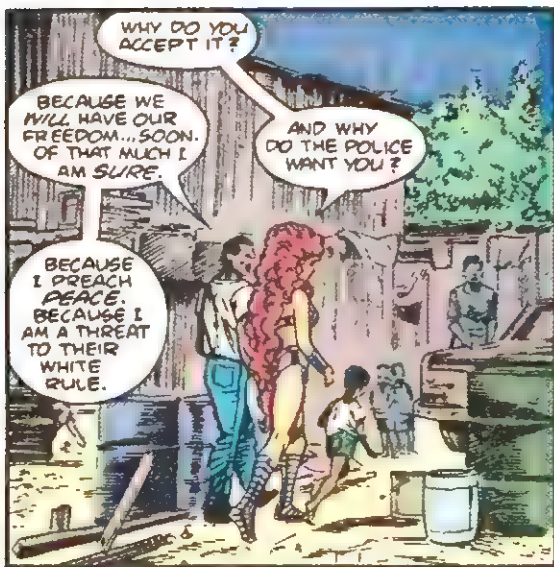
SOUTH AFRICA  
IS OUR HOME... IT'S  
A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY...  
WARM... LOVELY... RICH  
WITH LIFE... AND THEN  
THE FURCIBANS  
CAME.

...AFRIKANERS, THEY  
ARE CALLED, AND WITH  
THEIR WEAPONS THEY  
FORCED US TO BECOME  
MENIAL, SUBSERVIENT.

300 YEARS AND  
THEN CAME APARTHEID,  
WHICH MEANS "SEPARATENESS."  
AND WE WHO WERE BORN  
HERE WERE FORCED TO  
MOVE OUT OF SOUTH  
AFRICA.

SENSE! YOU  
WOULD FIND  
MORE SENSE  
IN ALICE'S  
WONDERLAND.







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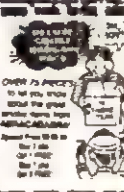
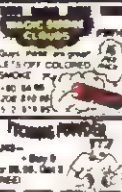
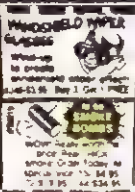
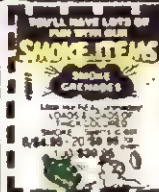
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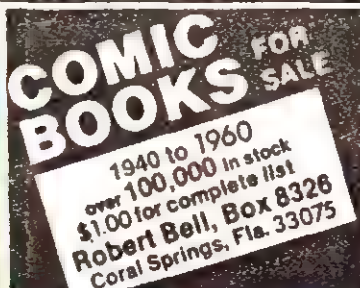
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THEN, THE  
SPECIAL...  
AND  
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wonder in his  
own regular  
monthly series!

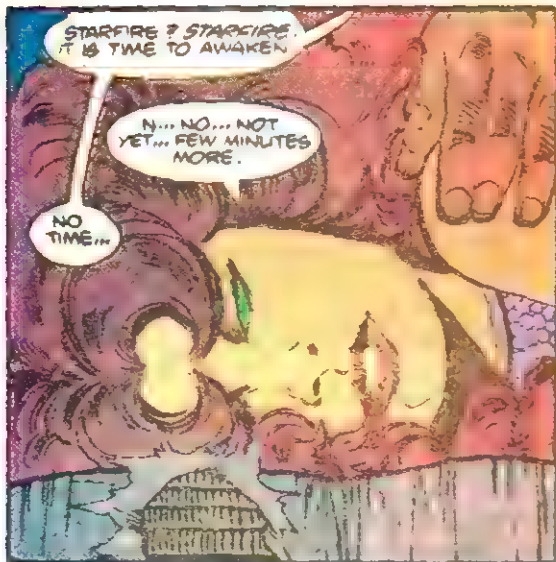
On sale  
in May



# HAWKMAN

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STARFIRE? STARFIRE.  
IT IS TIME TO AWAKEN.

N... NO... NOT  
YET... FEW MINUTES  
MORE.

NO  
TIME...



THE BUS LEAVES IN A  
FEW MINUTES. YOU HAVE  
TO HURRY.

HOW  
LONG  
DID I  
SLEEP?

FOUR HOURS...  
MORE THAN MANY  
OF US DO.



AS I SAID, WE AREN'T  
ALLOWED TO LIVE IN THE  
CITY, SO WE ARE FORCED  
TO TRAVEL FIVE HOURS  
TO WORK. FIVE HOURS  
HOME.

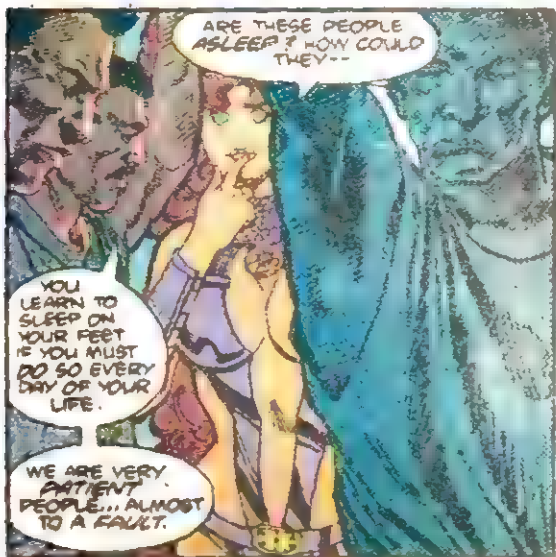
THE PEOPLE  
MUST BE AT  
WORK BY NINE  
OR THEY ARE  
FIRED.



FOR EVERY JOB A  
BLACK MAY HAVE, FIVE  
OTHERS WANT IT, AND  
THEY WOULD TAKE IT  
FOR LESS MONEY...  
JUST TO WORK...

... DESPITE HORRIBLE  
WAGES. WHITES EARN  
FOUR TIMES WHAT  
BLACKS MAKE.

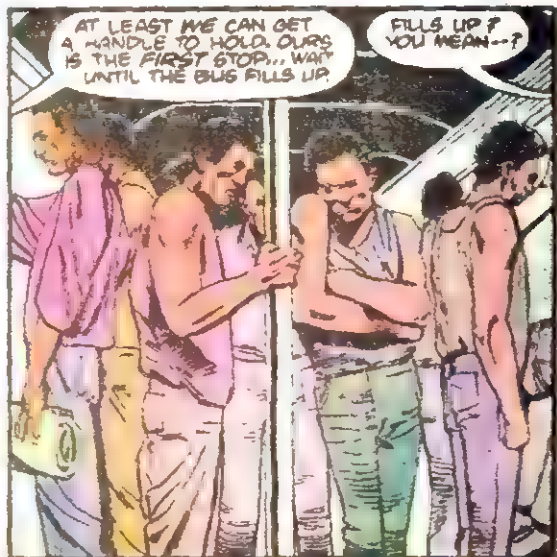
BUT WE WANT  
TO WORK... WE  
WANT OUR  
DIGNITY.



ARE THESE PEOPLE  
ASLEEP? HOW COULD  
THEY--

YOU  
LEARN TO  
SLEEP ON  
YOUR FEET  
IF YOU MUST  
DO SO EVERY  
DAY OF YOUR  
LIFE.

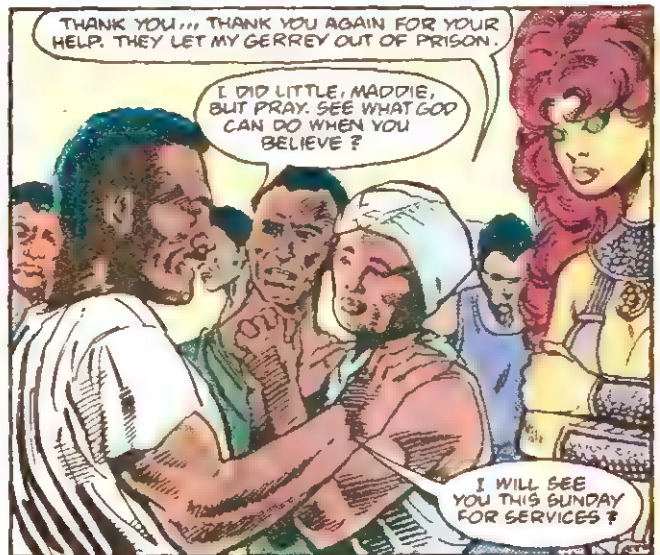
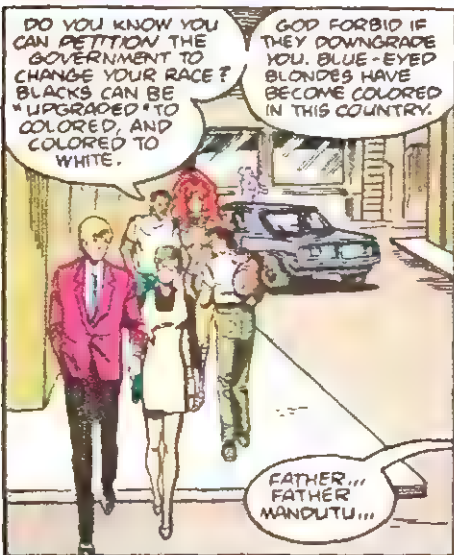
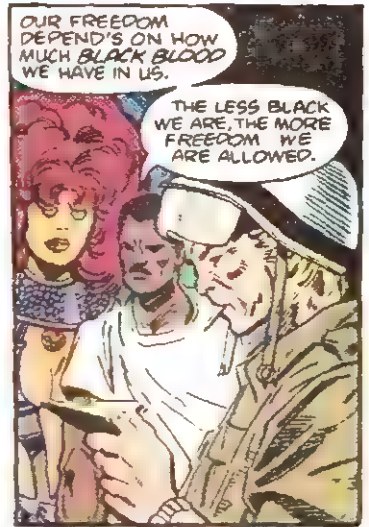
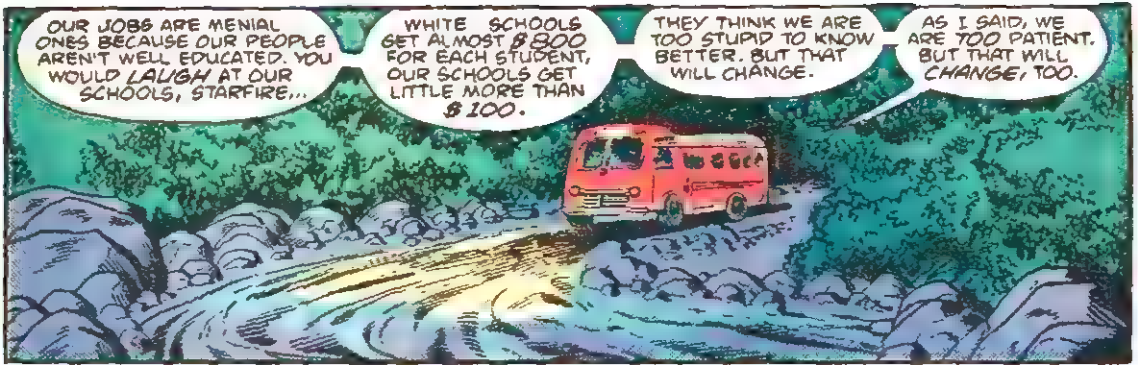
WE ARE VERY  
PATIENT  
PEOPLE... ALMOST  
TO A FAULT.



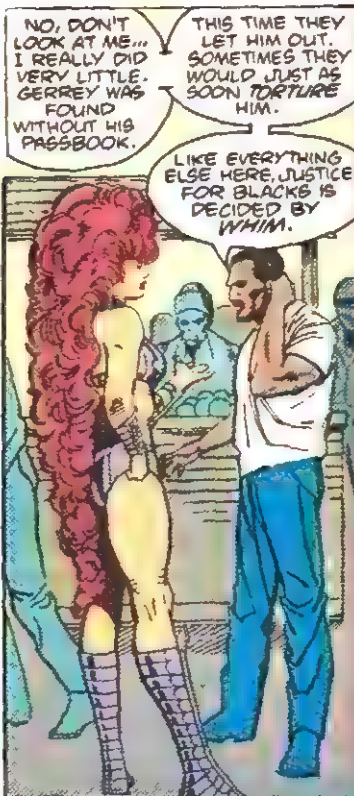
AT LEAST WE CAN GET  
A HANDLE TO HOLD OURS  
IS THE FIRST STOP... WAIT  
UNTIL THE BUS FILLS UP.

FILLS UP? YOU MEAN--?





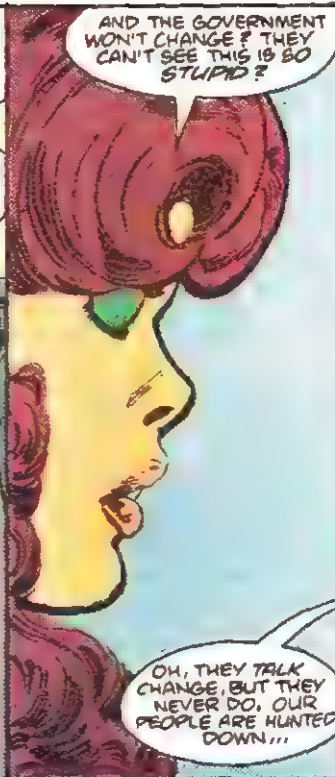




NO, DON'T LOOK AT ME... I REALLY DID VERY LITTLE. GERREY WAS FOUND WITHOUT HIS PASSBOOK.

THIS TIME THEY LET HIM OUT. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD JUST AS SOON TORTURE HIM.

LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE HERE, JUSTICE FOR BLACKS IS DECIDED BY WHIM.



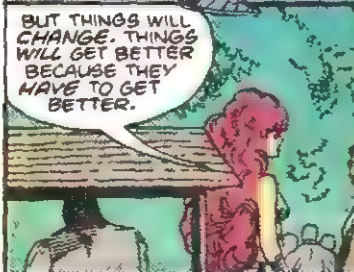
AND THE GOVERNMENT WON'T CHANGE IF THEY CAN'T SEE THIS IS SO STUPID?

OH, THEY TALK CHANGE, BUT THEY NEVER DO. OUR PEOPLE ARE HUNTED DOWN...

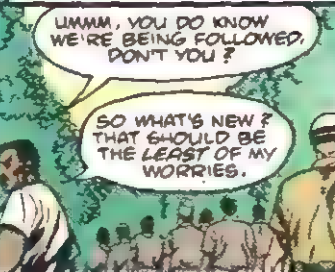


... OUR HOMES BROKEN INTO WITHOUT A WARRANT, WE ARE CARTED OFF TO JAIL WITHOUT COMMITTING ANY CRIME...

... WE ARE TORTURED AND BEATEN. OH, I COULD TELL YOU STORIES OF TORTURE THAT WOULD, EH, STRAIGHTEN YOUR LOVELY HAIR.

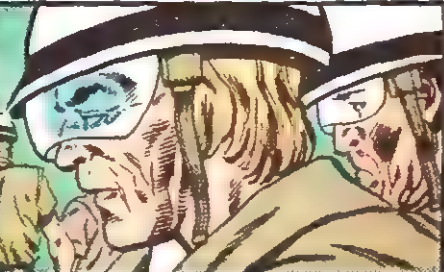


BUT THINGS WILL CHANGE. THINGS WILL GET BETTER BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO GET BETTER.



UMMM, YOU DO KNOW WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED, DON'T YOU?

SO WHAT'S NEW? THAT SHOULD BE THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES.



POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

SHE'S BEEN SEEN WITH MANDUTU... WALKING THROUGH THE CITY... DOING NOTHING WRONG, BUT...

... BUT IT WORRIES ME NONETHELESS.



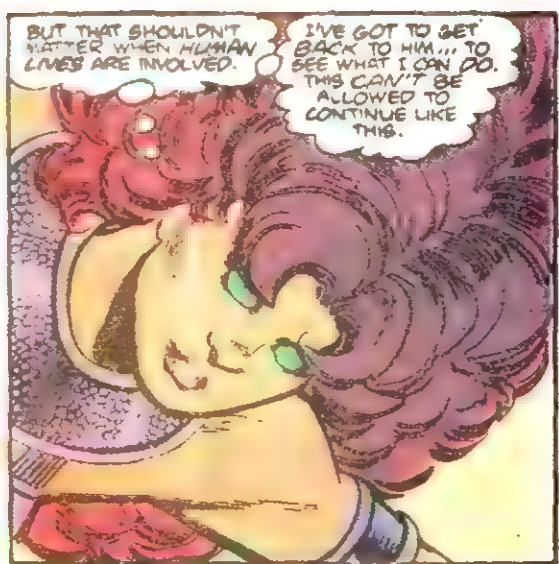
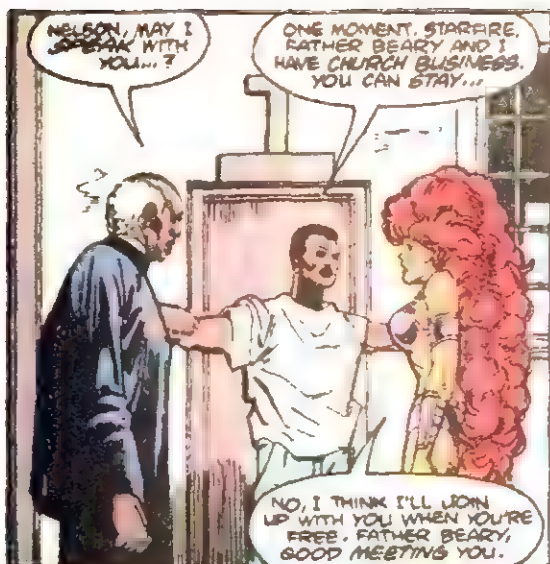
THAT ISN'T THE PROBLEM YOU MAY THINK IT IS. THE WAY I SEE IT IS, WE'VE GOT TWO PROBLEMS

THE GIRL AND THE BLACK PRIEST.

NOW, I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE OKAY FROM PRETORIA, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR IT, EITHER.

I'M GOING TO GET RID OF TWO PESTS AT THE SAME TIME.







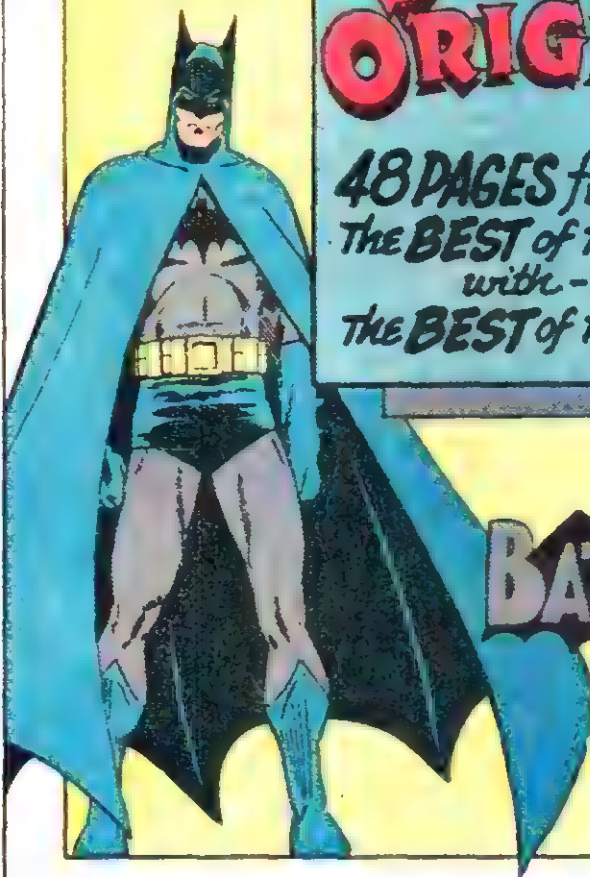
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# MEANWHILE...

## Part III

### People Make the Difference.

(For parts I and II see any DC Comics released in the last few weeks)

Following **BATMAN #400** (a jam with lota good artists; edited by Len Wein), Denny O'Neil takes over as **BATMAN** editor, bringing to both **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE** his background as the writer of the acknowledged classic *Batman* stories of the 70's that introduced the modern version of the hero.

Denny has assembled new teams to work on both titles: from **ADVENTURES OF THE OUTSIDERS**, Mike W. Barr and Alan (Miraceman) Davis take on the writing and drawing chores respectively on **DETECTIVE COMICS**, while Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli take on *Batman* for a four-issue series that tells the story of *Batman's* first year in action. Frank Miller's connection with the *Batman* began with **THE DARK KNIGHT**, which is Frank's most intense work to date. This four-part series tells the story of the return of a vanished *Batman* to a world that really needs him and really wants to destroy him. **THE DARK KNIGHT** takes place in a world that might come true, but one we wouldn't want to live in.



Comparable to the production values on **DARK KNIGHT** are those used for our graphic novel line, especially the Science Fiction graphic novels being edited by Science Fiction's first fandom member, Julie Schwartz. Major talents like Harlan Ellison, Marshall Rogers, Alex Nisio, and others are contributing to the line, which is of special interest to all comic readers as well as SF fans.

Julie's other editorial assignments are particularly varied these days. He's wrapping up the **SON OF AMBUSH BUG** mini-series, in which Giffen and Fleming continue their

loony look at comics and super-heroes, and he's developing our new **BLUE BEETLE** title with writer Len Wein and artist Paris Cullins before handing the editorial reins over to Karen Berger in the spring. The Beetle is the first of the Charlton characters to debut in his own book after being re-introduced in **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS**, and **BLUE BEETLE** will be our first new super-hero title since **FIRESTORM**. Not for long, though, as the success of two of our 1985 mini-series moves two traditional DC heroes back into the spotlight. First *Hawkman* restored to his own monthly title after 18 years. Fresh from the mini-series and follow-up special, Tony Isabella and Rich Howell are producing the ongoing title and their work's looking better than **EVIL**.



*Aquaman* will also return ... but in a second mini-series late in 1986, as the original creative team of newcomers Neal Pozner and Craig Hamilton is simply unable to deliver on a monthly basis. The first mini, in which the king of the seven seas sported his first new costume ever, caught some retailers by surprise as brisk sales emptied the shelves. Ed Hannigan will take on one assignment beyond our covers this fall and will welcome you to **THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**, just in time for the Warner Bros. movie.

This camp musical has had a cult following ever since the original Roger Corman film, and with a cast including Bill Murray, Steve Martin, and John Candy, this will be its breakout into a mass audience. Mike Fleisher will handle the screenplay adaptation, but an artist hasn't been chosen at press time.



Besides feeding man-eating plants, DC is also doing its bit to feed the hungry. Editor Bob Greenberger is working with Jim Starlin and Berni Wrightson on a special edition comic in support of Ethiopian Famine Relief, called **HEROES AGAINST HUNGER**. In buying this special you will not only help the hungry, you'll also be treated

to a great story—courtesy of the contribution made by most DC artists and writers, including yours truly.

Bob is also putting together a **Lois Lane** mini-series that touches on a very at-home problem—the problem of missing kids in America. Working with single parent Mindy Newell, writer, and artist Gray Morrow, the team creates a compelling two-issue series which illuminates and dramatizes this emotional issue. The bottom line is that for 1986 we have gathered the most talented, most committed group of editors, artists, writers, and support people that the industry has ever seen.



In the past, we've brought you exciting comics and innovated formats—from the first offset series to the first mini-series to the hardcover/softcover plan—and proved that we can change the universe in a single maxi-series. Nothing in our past comes close to what'll happen in 1986. We've given our creative people and editors the best characters in comics and the chance to create new ones equally powerful—and since our editors and our creative people (and our support people) are the best in the business, and since they've made a commitment to their creations and invested all the emotional and creative energy they have in the characters they lovingly create or re-create, they have made a commitment to you ... a commitment that, in 1986, will make dreams come true. Your dreams and ours, as we take the best talent in the industry, unleash them on characters they've wanted to work on their whole lives, and prove that people make the difference every step of the way by putting out the best line of comics anyone has ever seen!

Dare I conclude a tribute to the people who make the difference without mentioning Bob Craig of *World Color Press*; Ed Whitbread and Abe Biella from Chemical Engraving; Bob Spivak from Ronalds in Canada; DC artist Murphy Anderson, whose company Visual Concepts, Inc. sets the type for this column and our letter pages, as well as doing some color seps? No, I dare not.

Thank You and Good Afternoon.

Dick



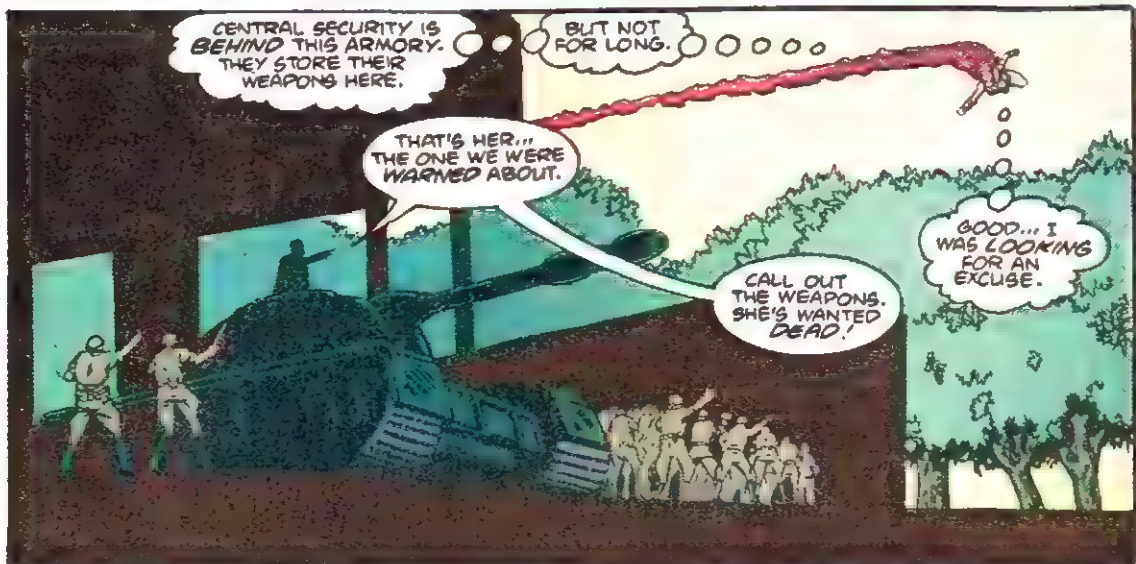
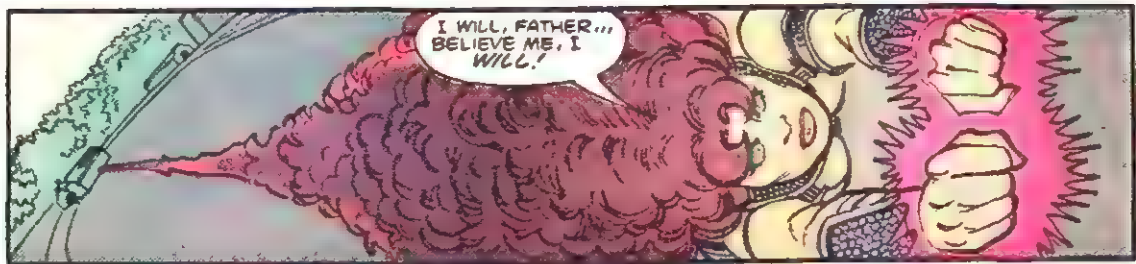
DC  
ON SALE THE

CHECK  
WEEK OF MAY 29  
LIST

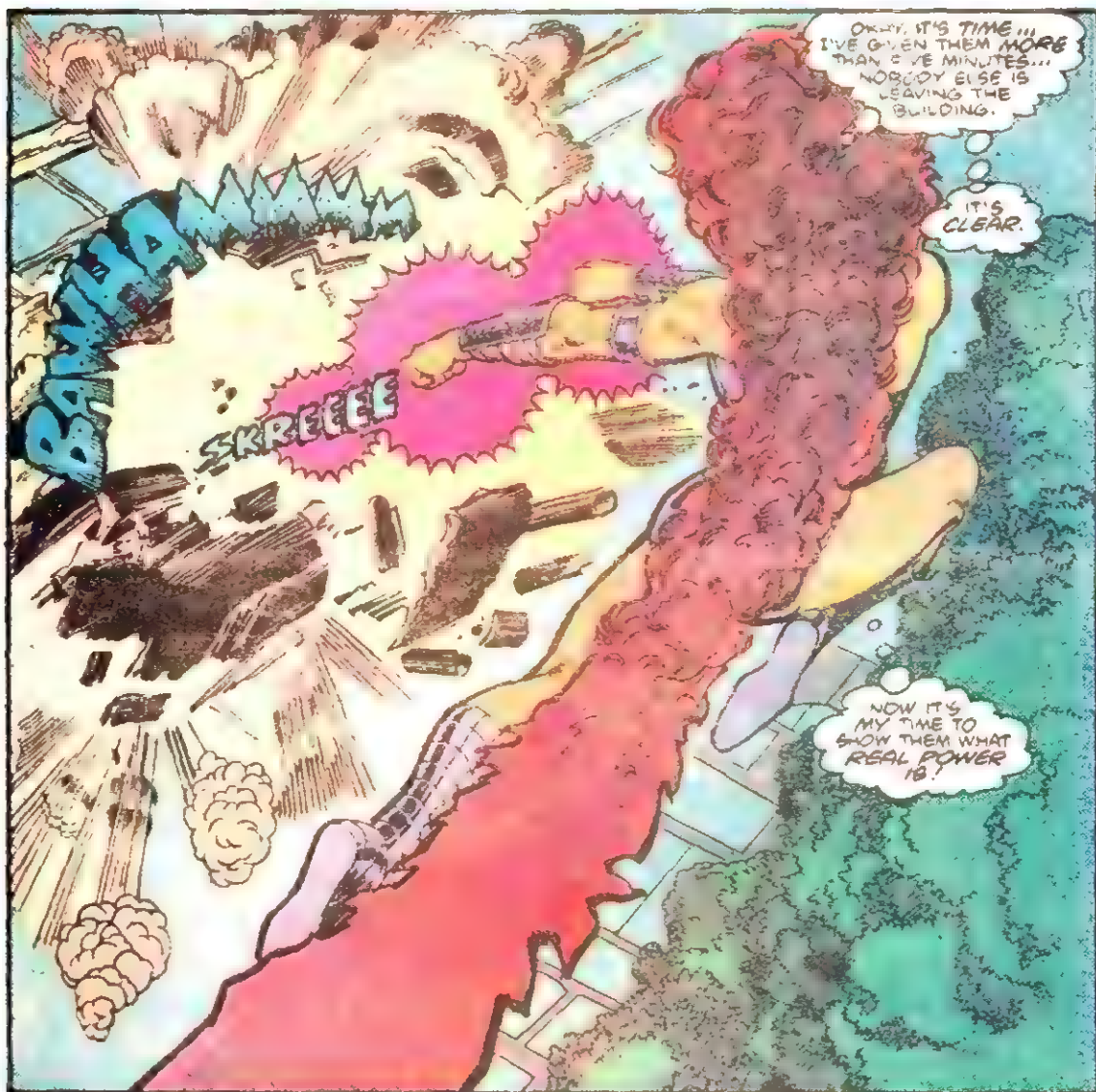
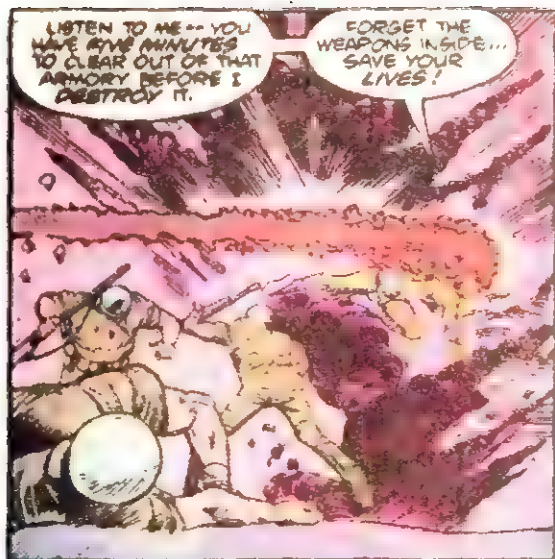
- ☐ All-Star Squadron 60: The JSA returns from Hyperspace!
- ☐ Teen Titans Spotlight On 1: Starfire sees the horrors of Apartheid!
- ☐ Lois Lane 1: Lois learns about missing children in this Special.
- ☐ Lords of the Ultra-Realm 3: Savage Falcon returns to Earth!
- ☐ Teen Titans Annual 2: The Origin of

- Brother Blood! John Byrne draws a second story!
- ☐ Son of Ambush Bug 3: Ambush Bug vs. his own uniform!
- ☐ Justice League of America 254: When Despero dies, will he take the JLA with him?
- ☐ Hex 13: A new super-group—are they heroes or villains?













THE EXTERIOR'S  
GONE... I MUST MAKE  
CERTAIN NO WEAPONS  
REMAIN INTACT...

Y'HAL--  
SOMEBODY'S  
THERE.

WHO IS IT?  
I-I DON'T  
HEAR ANY  
BREATHING.



**X'HAL--  
NO!!**

**NO!!**



WE BROUGHT HIM  
HERE FOR QUESTIONING...  
WE WERE NEVER GOING  
TO HURT HIM.

BUT YOU-- IN  
YOUR BLIND RAGE--  
YOU KILLED HIM.

**YOU  
KILLED  
FATHER  
MANDUTU!**

**next month:**

**STARFIRE IS HUNTED FOR THE  
MURDER OF FATHER MANDUTU!**



# SPOTLIGHTS

L-2393

DC Comics Inc.  
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New York, NY 10103  
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Welcome to the first issue of a brand-new book which I am very much excited about. TEEN TITANS SPOTLIGHT ON is a new concept in comics ... a book where we can put the spotlight on individual members of the Teen Titans, one at a time, and let each story dictate how many issues it should run. Before I go on, let me give you a brief history:

When you're working out stories for a team book like THE NEW TEEN TITANS, it is inevitable that you also come up with many ideas which simply don't fit into a team format. I've wanted to write dozens of stories about each individual Titan, but to take up our regular title, THE NEW TEEN TITANS, would mean eliminating all but one member from the book for months at a time. Instead, the TITANS comic tends to go back and forth with many stories as well as feature the team working together, or, as seen this year, at odds with each other.

But there are still all those really strong stories I want to do. Cyborg's story, or Raven's or Jericho's and the others.

And then I also have stories about some of the secondary characters in the Titans like The Terminator—a character I find fascinating, but can't spend 20+ pages focusing on unless he is with the Titans. Or Adeline Wilson's company, Searchers, Inc., or even a story featuring Gar's stepfather, Mento.

I have all these ideas and more, and no place to put them. Well, comics have been publishing mini-series for several years now, ever since DC initiated the concept with its TALES OF KRYPTON limited series. Why not do the stories there, you ask? There is a problem. Essentially, in order to be mailed into Canada, all mini-series have to be a minimum of four issues in length ... a quarterly publication. The problem there is not all stories deserve to be four issues. In fact, if you go through the history of your favorite comics, you'll find very few stories are ever four issues long. Some can be longer, most are shorter.

In the past many writers have simply padded shorter stories to fill that arbitrary four-issue length, or crammed in more panels than necessary to cut the stories to four issues. But what about the many excellent one-/or two-part stories that can never be expanded to four issues without completely ruining them? What happens? They simply don't get published and everybody, creators and readers, loses out.

This was my problem. DC wanted

more Titans material—and we had agreed on the mini-series format, except that I didn't want to write four-issue stories. DC-VP, and writer of THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, Paul Levitz, came up with the solution. Instead of mini-series, why not a second regular Titans book which rotated characters?

I loved the idea and quickly came up with the name TEEN TITANS SPOTLIGHT ON. I gave thought to artists and decided here was my chance to work with everyone I've always wanted to. There are so many wonderful artists out there who can't commit to full series, but would love to do a one- or two-part story. Here was our chance to get the best artists in comics all under one title.

Which brings us to this issue.

As with most people, I've read about the problems facing South Africa for many years, but for some reason the problems never hit home. Partly because South Africa is all the way around the world. Partly because I'm white. Partly because for many years there was almost NO media attention paid to the horrors of Apartheid. But over the past few years attention has been paid and we have been learning about the incredible inequities a minority government can inflict upon a majority population.

For the past several years I'd been considering doing a story about Apartheid but felt I had been doing so many public service type stories with the Titans ... from our critically acclaimed RUNAWAYS issues to our White House Anti-Drug comics ... that I didn't want to turn the Titans into DC's 1980's relevant book, as GREEN LANTERN had been in the sixties.

But the idea of doing an Apartheid story was always in the back of my mind, and since it didn't seem to work in VIGILANTE or CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, where else could I put it?

Then I went to Europe. Over there the subject of Apartheid was discussed more openly and angrily. Perhaps being closer to South Africa, or perhaps it was because I was touring Scotland and England while Britain's Prime Minister Thatcher was trying to block a vote against South Africa with her fellow Commonwealth countries, whatever the reason, my mind was focusing on the problem more and more.

I met with DC Publisher Jenette Kahn in London, where she and her husband, Mort, and I went out for lunch. Over an excellent serving of duck, I said I knew

we, as all comic companies, had our comics sold around the world, South Africa included. DC distributes books to South Africa, in fact, in several of the Black languages for the Black National states. They are the only children's books translated into Zulu and other Black languages. Then I paused, my voice lowering a bit ... sure that what I was going to say next would cause major trouble. I said I wanted to use the first issues of TEEN TITANS SPOTLIGHT ON to write an anti-Apartheid story.

I didn't have to tell Jenette this might cause major financial problems because DC Comics might find itself "out of Africa," so to speak. Jenette understood all the ramifications and simply smiled and said, "Great. Make it strong."

And I have tried to do just that.

The first thing I did was seek out information. There is precious little to be found out about South Africa and Apartheid. The subject has not been greatly written about and only now is information coming out. I went through all the news magazines for the past several years. I visited several libraries reading whatever I could find. I found *Hope and Suffering* by Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, and then read all the interviews with him I could locate. Also, I discovered an excellent newly published book called *Move Your Shadow* by Joseph Lelyveld.

Next, I had to find an artist who could illustrate the story, and I did, with Denys Cowan. When he heard that I was working on an Apartheid story, Denys was immediately interested. Several years ago he had drawn a South Africa story for our competition, but it has still yet to be printed. He was as fanatically interested as I was in seeing a good, strong story be published.

Thus motivated, we have written and drawn these first two issues, and I am very proud of them both. The stories function on two levels—the South African story, as well as providing a turning point in the life of Starfire. What more could I ask?

That's it. In our next issue we have Starfire come to terms with what has happened and how it will affect her from this time on. Issue #3 will begin a story spotlighting Cyborg. After that ... well, let us know who YOU would like to see.

And please tell us what you think of what we've already done. Send your letters to SPOTLIGHTS at the address above.

—Mary Wolfman





1 • 9 • 8 • 6

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to his greatest victory!**

Moench / Cowan

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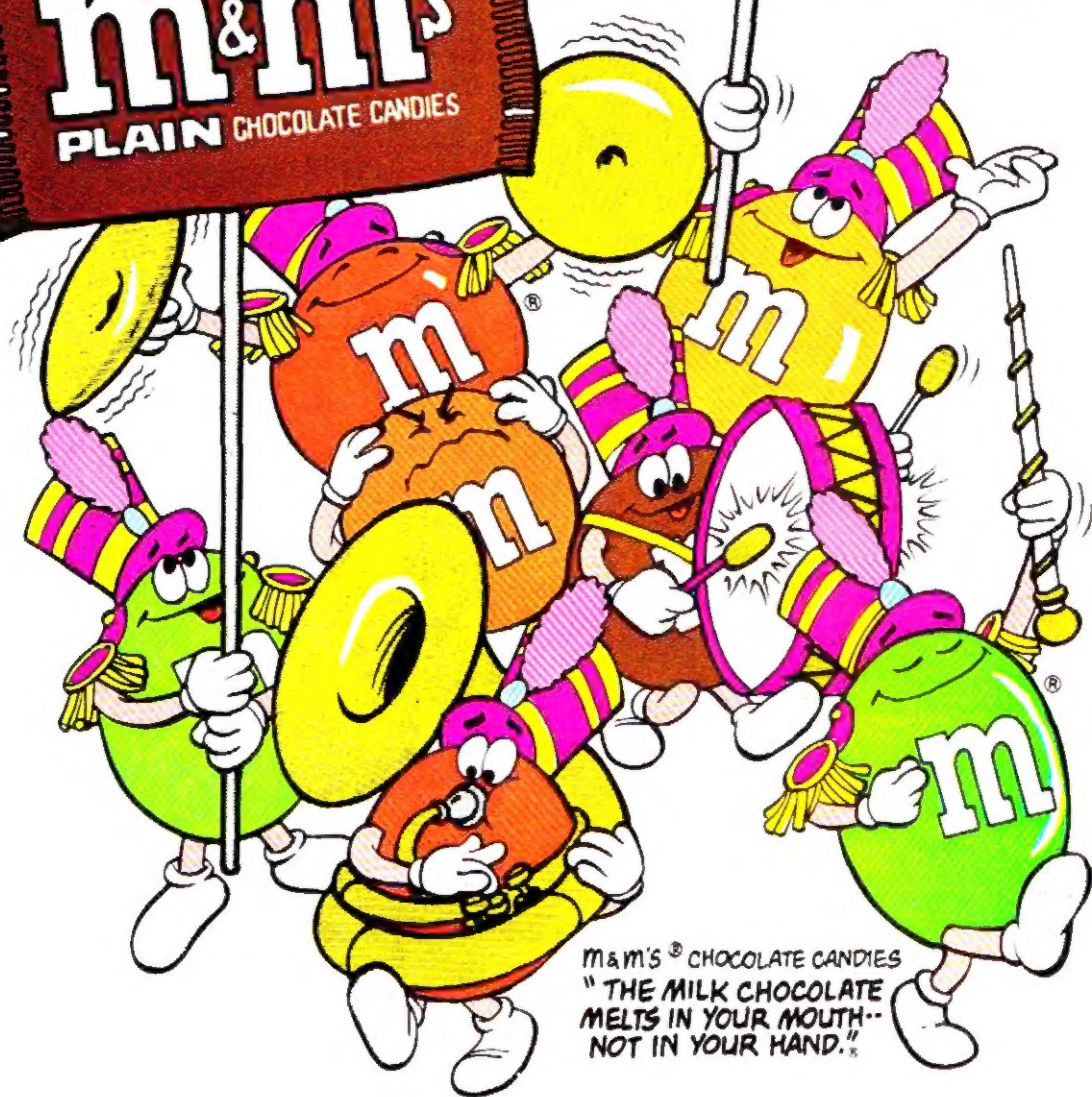


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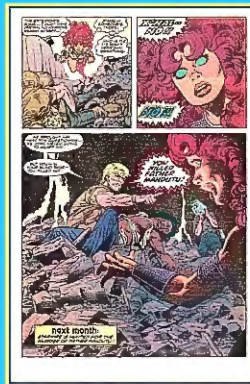
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WHO watches  
the WATCHMEN?

# APARTHEID NO MORE!





# Teen Titans Spotlight #1

DC Comics

## "Black & White"

penciller: Denys Cowan  
colorist: Adrienne Roy

embellisher: Dick Giordano  
consulting editor: Mike Gold

1st issue

